

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (EXCUSED.), Councilmember Darrell Hardy (ABSENT), Councilmember Kelly Porter., Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (EXCUSED)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Sgt. Leroy Patterson, Johnny Thompson, Public Works Director.

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Kelly Porter

1.1.4 Approval of Agenda:

It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. LEGISLATION:

- Resolution 10-10 Charter Amendment-Filling of Vacancies, Introduced by City Council on Monday, November 9, 2009 and the first reading was declared. It was motion by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Resolution 10-10. The motion carried
FOR: Gatling, Porter, Raynor and Simms
AGAINST: None

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Mayor- Eugene W. Grant

- Mayor Grant was excused and no report was given.

4.2 Council President- LaTasha Gatling, Councilmember-At-Large

- Councilmember Gatling reported that the Council had two meetings in the month of October;
- The Council didn't pass any legislation in the month of October.
- The Council is focusing on the following goals hiring permanent City Administrator and Chief of Police and to establish goals for the next year for the City.

4.3 Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department- Marcus Jones, Vice President

- No Report

4.4 City Administrator-Robert Ashton (Acting)

- Mr. Ashton reported that the Neighborhood Design School will be forwarding to the City a plan of action to move forward on the John E. Feggans Center.
- It will cost the City approximately \$103,000 to change the equipment for the SPPD radios
- He is working on filling the Police Chief vacancy, and sought the help from the Chief Association, which they have established the panel and will be coordinating the times for the interview.
- He mentioned the Tax Assessment notices will be mailed by the end of December, and for the resident to ensure they use code: 1730 on the labels.
- Council President Gatling requested that mailers go out between now and April referencing

4.5 Code Enforcement-Tiara Andrews

- Absent-Report provided in writing (see attached)

4.6 Finance Department-Robert Ashton, City Treasurer

- Mr. Ashton report was provided in written format (see attach)

4.7 Police Department-Sgt. Patterson

- **Personnel**-Sgt. Patterson reported that we have seven patrol (7) Officers out of the assigned fifteen (15). We have two (2) officers on light duty. Working on the Reserve Officers to bridge the gap.
- **Pressing Issues for the Department** is the county upgrading to the 800 MHZ radio system, which will pose a disadvantage for the Department. The Deputy

Chief Administrative Officer of Public Safety, Vernon Herron has submitted a grant proposal to reduce the cost to municipalities, but if not approved we will need to pay the cost of \$103,000.00.

- Officer Ivey, C-Safe officer is working with the County Section 8 (eight) officer to address issues plaguing the City.
- He thanked the residents for the anonymous calls regarding the war on drugs. Encouraged the residences to use the non emergency number at 301-333-4000, which will get an officer dispatched within Seat Pleasant.

4.8 Public Works Department-Johnny Thompson (Director)

- The Public Works Department is aggressively collecting the leaves, as the machine had broken, so they aren't using a particular schedule. Encouraged the residents to continue to put the leaves at the curb, as they will be vacuumed on the day of pick up.
- The flowers were stolen from the flower bed, and a car was driven through the flower bed. Please report any activity to the Public Works Department or the Police Department.
- The Public Works Department is in the process of finalizing the plan to dispose of old and unusable police vehicles.
- The Public Works Department has issued new uniforms to all of its employees. This saved the City approximately \$12,000 with a plan to replace in three (3) to four (4) years.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT:

Sylvia Sockwell 514 Birchleaf Ave, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Sockwell stated that her gas was turned off and she couldn't get any assistance from any organization. Washington Gas account was under investigation, and they sent her a bill for over \$500 and she couldn't afford to pay, they wouldn't allow her to make a reasonable arrangement on her bill.

Eugene Kennedy Addison Road, Seat Pleasant-Mr. Kennedy stated that he is concerned about the police Department and the number of officers on abroad. The taxes were raised to employ officer and run the Department on 24/7. He thinks we should try for ten (10) officers and raise their salaries to make it compatible to surrounding jurisdictions. Councilmember Gatling stated the Council had implemented a salary increase in the FY2010 budget for the officers. However, they are strategizing due to the economy.

Pamela Boone-66th Ave, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Boone stated there will be a Food and Fitness Expo on November 14, 2009 at Sports and Learning Complex from 9am-2pm. She said crime reports are listed each month; Residents please call the non emergency number to report any crime. Javonna Whittington is the new major over District 3. It was stated that she was from Seat Pleasant. Please support the Fire Department and visit their website at seatpleasantfire.com. The top ten (10) stations with the most crime don't list Addison Road or Capitol Heights. She has requested that the stripes be replaced on the speed humps on G Street. Christmas time is approaching, please be aware/alert at the gas stations.

Amanda Feggans-69th Place, Seat Pleasant-Mrs. Feggans, wanted to know the status of the blue prints for the Feggans Center, and what were the changes in Section 302 and 309 that was changed prior to the Resolution. She invited the Council to the 7th Councilmanic Districts Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 22, 2009 at 2:00p.m. at the Cedar Heights Community Center located at 1200 Glen Willow Drive, Seat Pleasant, MD.

Jacqui Battle-70th Street, Seat Pleasant-Ms. Battle stated that she was concerned about the satellite office of the Police Department stating they can't reach the officers while they are in the field. The grass hasn't been replaced on 70th Street. She wanted to know if the Council was aware of the new store that was coming into the City to replace the furniture, which is another wig store. She is concerned about the lack and unsatisfactorily of the Code Book. She wanted to know if the bus could be used to transport the seniors to the Civic meetings. She said the sign on Martin Luther King and 65th obstructs your view when coming from the CVS.

It was announced after that the City has Free Prescription Drug Discounts Program Cards. Please call Darlinda Sanders at 301-336-2600 to receive your card.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

- None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. Veteran's Day Program, Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 10:00a.m., Seat Pleasant Activity Center

8.2. Ward IV Meeting, Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 11:00a.m., City Hall Council Chambers

8.3. Ward I Meeting, Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m., City Hall Council Chambers

8.4. Ward II Candidacy Petitions due on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 5:00p.m.

ADJOURN-It was motioned by Councilwoman Simms and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dashaun Lanham
City Clerk